of States' Annual Plan and through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Schemes. In 2002-03, Central Assistance of Rs. 1604.81 crores was provided to Uttaranchal. For the same period, Rs. 1295.27 crores was provided to Himachal Pradesh. Under Non-Plan Grants a total amount of Rs. 32.54 crores and Rs. 817.85 crores was provided to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh respectively. Besides, share in Central Taxes amounting to Rs. 374.11 crores, was released to Uttaranchal and Rs. 347.63 crores, was released to Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter of provided financial aid to Uttaranchal will be decided at the time of finalization of Annual Plans of States by Planning Commission in consultation with States Governments. Annual Plan of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh for 2003-04 are yet to be finalized.

Funding mechanism for infrastructure projects

4119. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) by when Government are going to implement the innovative funding mechanism for the major infrastructure projects in the Ministries of Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation etc,;

(b) how the scheme is going to be operationalised;

(c) whether the budget allocation is sufficient to bridge the viability gap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) Government has already allocated Rs. 2000 crore in the Union Budget 2003-04 for this purpose. Process has already been initiated to promote public private partnership for the infrastructure projects. As this is an ongoing process, no specific time limit may be provided.

(b) The concerned Administrative Ministry would take the due approval of the competent authority for the investment proposal and meeting the viability gap.

(c) Sufficiency or otherwise of the allocation would be known once the detailed project reports are finalized, indicating funding sources, phasing of investment and resource requirement to fill the gap.

(d) Details would only be available after finalization of the various projects and their approval by appropriate authority.